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Lesson 12- Objective: Subtract fractions greater than or equal to 1.

Problem 1- What do you notice about these two problems?

$\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{2}$

Sketch a number line to show each.

The top number line is marked from 0 to 2. A blue dot is at 1/2, and a blue dot is at 1/5. A blue curved arrow points from 1/2 to 1/5, labeled -1/5. The bottom number line is marked from 0 to 2. A red dot is at 1/5, and a red dot is at 1/2. A red curved arrow points from 1/5 to 1/2, labeled -1/2.

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Let's work together to show two methods for writing the equation.
SOLVE each method!

METHOD 1 - Take the half away from the 1 first.

$$1\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} =$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{5}{5} = \frac{5}{10}$$

$$\frac{1}{5} \times \frac{2}{2} = \frac{2}{10}$$

$$\frac{5}{10} + \frac{2}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$$

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METHOD 2- Take the half away from 1 and 1 fifth first.

* Tip= turn the mixed number into an improper fraction before you calculate!

$$1\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{6}{5} - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{6}{5} \times \frac{2}{2} = \frac{12}{10}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{5}{5} = \frac{5}{10}$$

$$\frac{12}{10} - \frac{5}{10} = \frac{7}{10}$$

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Problem 2

Write the problem here = $1\frac{3}{4} - \frac{6}{7}$

METHOD 1- Take the $\frac{6}{7}$ away from the whole number 1 first, and add back on the three- fourths.

$$1 - \frac{6}{7}$$

$$\frac{7}{7} - \frac{6}{7} = \frac{1}{7}$$

$$\frac{1}{7} + \frac{3}{4}$$

$$\frac{1}{7} \times \frac{4}{4} = \frac{4}{28}$$

$$\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{7}{7} = \frac{21}{28}$$

$$\frac{4}{28} + \frac{21}{28} = \frac{25}{28}$$

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Problem 2

Write the problem here = $1\frac{3}{4} - \frac{6}{7}$

METHOD 1- Take the $\frac{6}{7}$ away from the whole number 1 first, and add back on the three- fourths.

Show it on a number line!

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METHOD 2- Take the $\frac{6}{7}$ away from 1 and three-fourths first.
 * Tip= turn the mixed number into an improper fraction before you calculate!

$$1 \frac{3}{4} - \frac{6}{7}$$

$$\frac{7}{4} - \frac{6}{7}$$

$$\frac{7}{4} \times \frac{7}{7} = \frac{49}{28}$$

$$\frac{6}{7} \times \frac{4}{4} = \frac{24}{28}$$

$$\frac{49}{28} - \frac{24}{28} = \frac{25}{28}$$

Show it on a number line!

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Problem 3
Write the problem here = $3\frac{1}{4} - 2\frac{1}{2}$

METHOD 1 - Take the 2 and one-half away from the whole number 3 first, and then add back the one-fourth to find the final answer.

$3 - 2\frac{1}{2}$
 $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$
 $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{2}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$

Show it on a number line!

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METHOD 2- Take the whole 2 away from 3 and one-fourths first, then subtract one-half to find the final answer.
* Tip= turn the mixed number into an improper fraction before you calculate!

$$3\frac{1}{4} - 2\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{13}{4} - \frac{5}{2}$$

$$\frac{5}{2} \times \frac{2}{2} = \frac{10}{4}$$

$$\frac{13}{4} - \frac{10}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

Show it on a number line!

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Problem 4
Write the problem here = $4\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{2}{3}$

METHOD 1 - Take the 3 and two-thirds away from the whole number 4 first, and add back the half to find the final answer.

$4 - 3\frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$

$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$

Number line diagram showing the calculation:

0 1 2 3 4 5

Start at 4, subtract $3\frac{2}{3}$ to reach $\frac{1}{3}$. Then add $\frac{1}{2}$ to reach $\frac{5}{6}$.

Show it on a number line!

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METHOD 2- Take the whole 3 away from 4 and one-half first, then subtract $2/3$ to find the final answer.


* Tip= turn the mixed number into an improper fraction before you calculate!

$$4\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{2}{3}$$

$$\frac{9}{2} - \frac{11}{3}$$

$$\frac{9}{2} \times \frac{3}{3} = \frac{27}{6} \quad \frac{11}{3} \times \frac{2}{2} = \frac{22}{6}$$

$$\frac{27}{6} - \frac{22}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$$

Show it on a number line! 

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